



# The Salute online



Monthly newsletter of the Portsmouth Area Chapter, an affiliate of the Military Officers Association of America, serving Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Smithfield and Franklin, Virginia, since 1983. Dinner meetings are held the Second Thursday of each month except July and August.

VOLUME XXXVI ISSUE II

[thesalute1@gmail.com](mailto:thesalute1@gmail.com)

[pacmoaa.org](http://pacmoaa.org)

February 2017



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

PACMOAA had a great start to the New Year with forty three members, spouses and guests attending the January meeting! That is the largest number of attendees at a regular dinner meeting in several years. It was great to see longtime PACMOAA member Larry Anderson and his wife, Frieda. Several guests attended: the Honorable John Rowe Jr., Portsmouth Mayor, and his wife Carol; Luke McCoy former City Manager of Portsmouth; Douglas

Weller, who works with the Portsmouth City manager, Dr. Lydia Pettis Patton. Before dinner, PACMOAA had a brief ceremony with Bob Wall attaching the sixth consecutive 5 Star Level of Excellence streamer to the PACMOAA flag dipped by outgoing President, Hal Hostetler.

After dinner, John L. Rowe, inducted the new Leadership Team Members: President MAJ Sherry Ferki, USA (Ret), Secretary Col Hal Hostetler, USA (Ret.), and Board of Directors, Lt Col Bob Steorts, USAF, (Ret.), and Lt Col Jim Stephan, USAF (Ret.). Col Hostetler turned the gavel over to MAJ Ferki and both made brief remarks.



After the induction ceremony, Mayor Rowe discussed issues facing Portsmouth and some of his vision for the city. He stressed the importance of improving the image of Portsmouth for business and with the media. He met with the media the day after the election. Transparency was a huge issue during the campaign by all the candidates running. There was some discussion about underutilized areas in Portsmouth like the area Alexander's Corner. Many car dealerships that lined the streets had moved out leaving significant open land for new businesses to develop. Apparently, several businesses recently decided not move to Portsmouth because of the zoning laws that were more favorable to maintaining a certain appearance versus use. That issue will be addressed soon.

Another significant issue discussed related to the Portsmouth ports. We have one of the nations busiest deep water ports. The day of our meeting, the Mayor met with the Governor, Senator Louise Lucas, both Senators from our area as well as other high-ranking state officials to talk about Portsmouth ports. There was some discussion about the future of tolls that was mentioned at the Richmond meeting as well.

Public safety was another important topic addressed. The importance of adequate staffing and retention of firemen and police was discussed in depth. Salaries are a big issue. Douglas Weller

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Shirley S. Barker  
Joyce Janke  
June Leckrone  
Robert C. Parker Jr.  
Lynn M. Terry

(Continued on page 4) President's Desk

## Chapter Happenings

**Feb 05 Super Bowl**

**Feb 09 PACMOAA Dinner**

**Feb 14 Valentine's Day**

**Feb 16 President's Day**

**Feb 28 Mardi Gras**

**Feb 29 Leap Day**

### FEBRUARY DINNER

Our next dinner will be held on **Thursday, 09 February** at the Hilton Garden Inn (HGI) Ballroom at 5921 Harbour View Boulevard in Northern Suffolk. [LINK TO HGI](#) for an excellent map, GPS information and HGI contacts. Social hour will begin at 1800 with dinner at 1900.

### MENU

Iceberg Tossed Salad with Ranch or Italian of Dressings  
Pork Tenderloin with Apples,  
Jasmine Rice, Green Beans Almandine, and Dinner Rolls  
Chef's Choice Dessert  
Water and Ice Tea served at table  
Coffee and Hot Water for Tea Station

Cost is **\$30.00** (includes tax and gratuity) Please make your reservation no later than **Sunday, 5 February** with Sherry Ferki at \_\_\_\_\_

Come join us for good company, good food and a good time.

**REMEMBER A RESERVATION MADE IS A RESERVATION PAID.**

### FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKER



When I sat down to write about our guest speaker, Casey Shaw, I thought it fishy that little information had been provided beyond her name and something about the Elizabeth River. As it turns out, after a little internet work, there is something fishy about Casey Shaw. Casey, a native of Norfolk, grew up fishing the area and actively participates in the VIMS Game Fish Tagging Program. Casey graduated from the College of William and Mary in 2009 with a Bachelor of Arts

Degree, double majoring in Government and Environmental Policy. Casey is a grass roots coordinator for the Elizabeth River Project. She is excited to work with the Project and the greater Hampton Roads community to restore our home river. You may reach Casey for speaking engagements and volunteer opportunities by phone at (757) 372-





4153 or at [cshaw@elizabethriver.org](mailto:cshaw@elizabethriver.org)

The Elizabeth River Project is comprised of citizens, businesses, schools and government working together to restore our river. For too long, the Elizabeth River, a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, has been infamous for pollution. Instead of lamenting the problem, we prefer to take hope from her strengths. From the Great Bridge Lock to the naval base, you can see the importance of the Elizabeth River every day in Hampton Roads. She gives us our work and our play. The Elizabeth River Project is the non-profit organization leading community efforts to restore the environmental health of this great harbor river while affirming her value to our port economy. Essentially the mission of the Project is to restore the Elizabeth River to the highest practical level of environmental quality through government, business and community.

I offer the following topic introduction as I understand it, "the Elizabeth River Project began in 1991 as a discussion around a kitchen table then—" I am eagerly awaiting for Casey to finish the story at our next meeting.

Please remember to bring items in support of the Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless winter sheltering program. We are approaching the coldest time of the year. PVH thanks all who were so generous at our January meeting.

Thanks

Just a gentle reminder that PACMOAA dues are due. Regular membership is \$25.00/year and Surviving Spouse membership is \$20.00/year. You can pay your dues at the next meeting or mail it to:

PACMOAA  
P.O. Box 5353  
Portsmouth, VA 23703.

## ERRATA

*The Salute* has for a second time erroneously credited the MCJROTC cadets' "Toys for Tots" collection efforts to the wrong high school. The Cadets have always been from Churchland High School and done an excellent job. Many apologies.



## WELCOME ABOARD

*The Salute* extends a hardy welcome to CPT John Rowe Jr., USA veteran and his wife Carol from Portsmouth.



President Ferki presented a bird house by Charles Kuehn to a winner in the 50/50 drawing that helps support our Scholarship Fund. Thank you Charles for your donation. Your time, talent and effort are greatly appreciated.

*(Continued from page 1) President's Desk*

mentioned that Portsmouth has been losing experienced police and fire employees to other cities. A recent case cited was the loss of a trained officer to another Hampton Roads City. The officer was offered an \$8000 signing bonus, a \$5000 annual salary increase plus other benefits. The gaining city was not Norfolk, Virginia Beach or Chesapeake; it was the city of Franklin! Another aspect of public safety is related to the community having community spirit and heart - being comfortable with each other rather than being divided.

Laura Belin, the wife of PACMOAA member Jim Belin, noted that she is on a board for Portsmouth and that there are volunteer positions open on several boards. This is a good way to become involved in what happens in your community. Later in the newsletter, you can see the positions posted on the Portsmouth City website and I am sure most cities in our area have similar vacancies. MOAA emphasizes the importance of grassroots involvement in our legislative efforts and being on a city board is certainly working at the grassroots level. As has been mentioned several times recently in the news, grassroots involvement in your community sometimes can have more impact on your daily life than issues decided at a much higher level.

Thank you all for electing me as your president. I have filled this position multiple times since I have been a PACMOAA member. Membership is an ongoing issue and involvement of the membership in running the organization is vital. Many of us on the Leadership Team have been serving in one role or another for some time, most for over 10 years. We need new ideas and approaches to continue to make PACMOAA a successful organization. If any of you have any ideas or suggestions, please share them with any member of the Leadership Team. One example of trying to get more membership involvement is the survey 1st Vice President Ken App made that was sent out by email and distributed at the last meeting. If you have not completed it and turned it in yet,

it is again enclosed in the newsletter. I look forward to working with everyone for a successful and productive year.

The Salute editor offers additional comments to this article in the form of sincere thanks to John for his informative, elevating and motivating presentation. I did notice that your smiling presence is contagious. Anyone talking to you more than ten minutes begins to smile. As proof I offer the un-staged picture below of John administering the oath of office to newly elected officers.



John, you have developed a Portsmouth Pride in me. I did not realized there are so many great things about the city of Portsmouth. We do have some problems, which we can and must overcome. I am all in. What do I need to do. Oops, I forgot; I live in Suffolk.

## PACMOAA BEGINS 2017 LEGISLATIVE EFFORT

The annual "Storming the Hill" legislative event kicked off The 2017 year with a two-day campaign on 22 and 23 January. Your legislative team solicited our Virginia General Assembly in support of military and veteran issues. The team included Karl D. Wilson, Legislative Representative; Hal Hostetler, PAC-



MOAA Secretary & Immediate Past President; Steve Turner, VCOC President; and Jim Stephan, VCOC Treasurer.

On Sunday, all Virginia MOAA chapters met at the Virginia War Memorial for the first quarter 2017 VCOC meeting. The focus for the legislative team, in preparation for the next day's meetings with our state senators and delegates, was to review 2017 Joint Leadership Council Veterans Services Organizations (JLC) objectives.



Karl Wilson and Hal Hostetler calling on Delegate Stephen Heretick.



The JLC legislative objectives are as follows:

1. That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate additional funds and new FTE positions for Virginia veteran and family support services as requested by the work group.
2. Increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3000 per year to \$5000 per year.



Hal Hostetler and Karl Wilson calling on Delegate Matthew James.

3. Advocate for in-state tuition for all members of the reserve components.
4. Create the Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship grant pilot program.
5. Change eligibility for higher education benefits under the Virginia Military and Dependents Education Program (VMSDEP)
6. Enact legislation and provide budget support for electronic ballot return of absentee ballots by Virginia's deployed military service members to enfranchise their voting privileges.



PACMOAA Legislative team calling on Senator Lionel Spruill.

PACMOAA met with state delegates Matthew James and Steve Heretick and state senators Lionell Spruill, Sr. and John A. Cosgrove. We met with legislative assistants in the absence of Delegate Cliff Hayes and Senator Louise Lucas.

Your legislative team happily reports all representatives are in support of the JLC policy initiatives.



PACMOAA Legislative team with VCOC Treasurer Jim Stephan and Senator John A. Cosgrove.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karl D. Wilson  
CW3 USA (RET)  
Legislative Representative

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

by Bob Steorts, Chaplain

### TRUE STRENGTH

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be with strength." You know, it's absolutely true. Those who go through the valley of mourning and come to the other side do indeed come out with new strength - a new strength of character, a new and deeper understanding of life, a new ability to empathize with others, a new power to help others in trouble, a new sense of closeness to God.

Alexander Solzhenitsyn tells of a moment when he was on the verge of giving up all hope as a prisoner in a Soviet prison camp. He was working twelve hours a day at hard labor. He was existing on a starvation diet. And he had become gravely ill. The doctors were predicting his death. One afternoon while shoveling sand under a blazing sun, he simply stopped working, even though he knew the guards would beat him severely, perhaps to death. But he felt he just couldn't go on.

But, he saw another prisoner, a fellow Christian, moving toward him cautiously. With his cane, the man quickly drew a cross in the sand, and then quickly erased it. In that brief mo-

ment, Solzhenitsyn felt all of the hope of the gospel flood through his soul. It gave him strength and courage to endure that difficult day and the hard months of imprisonment, that followed. Alexander Solzhenitsyn was saved that day by the sign of the cross. That quick reminder of God's love and power gave him the strength to hold on. The poet put it like this:

Hold on to God's hand with all your might, and he will hold onto you; trust Him strong with childlike faith, and his grace will see you through. Jesus put it like this: "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"

From "*When All Else Fails...Read the Instructions*"

by James W. Moore

Pray that we can "carry on" with renewed strength through tough times.

## NEWS FROM MOAA

Last week, MOAA joined a gathering of senior leaders at the Defense Health Agency (DHA) to discuss improvements for the TRICARE health plan.

Express Scripts is the TRICARE program's pharmacy benefit manager, and representatives were on hand to present a review of their beneficiary engagement activities. The TRICARE pharmacy benefit remains one of MOAA's key focal areas, and our membership counts on us to interact with both TRICARE and Express Scripts to provide insight and feedback from the beneficiary perspective.

TRICARE's pharmacy program plays a big part in the operations of the military health care system. For instance, on a weekly basis 2.45 million prescriptions are filled. Over 1 million of these are filled in the TRICARE pharmacy network, and Express Scripts fills close to a half a million prescriptions through the Home Delivery program.

Pharmacies located within military hospitals round out this massive volume by dispensing

over 800,000 additional prescriptions each week.

Needless to say, this dispensing activity represents an enormous amount of beneficiary engagement in their health care.

Express Scripts also plays a significant role in helping move more beneficiaries into the Home Delivery program. To this end, they recognize that meeting and communicating with the beneficiary where they are most receptive and comfortable is instrumental to achieving a positive experience.

Express Scripts has focused on the experience of care and invested in improvements such as chat capabilities, improving order turn-around times, enhanced auto refills, digital benefits information, virtual consultations with pharmacists and physicians, social media support, and much more.

One particularly helpful tool is the [Find a Pharmacy](#) feature found on the Express Scripts website and through their mobile app. Beneficiaries can locate the closest in-network pharmacies, find pharmacies that are open 24-hours, etc.

“We’re pleased that Express Scripts values insights from our MOAA members, and we hope to continue to provide it so we may be a part of the development of meaningful technology and other improvements,” said MOAA President and CEO Lt. Gen. Dana Atkins, USAF (Ret).

*If you have comments, concerns, or compliments about your experience with Express Scripts Inc. or the TRICARE pharmacy program generally, we want to hear from you. The feedback you provide may help shape the future of these benefits. Send your thoughts to:*

[beninfo@moaa.org](mailto:beninfo@moaa.org)

## SURVIVING SPOUSE CORNER

By Gail Joyce, MOAA Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee member

Last year was a time of change and new challenges. We began 2016 with a new name — the Surviving Spouse Advisory Committee (SSAC) — one the committee felt brought a better understanding of who we are.

In April, we participated in “Storming the Hill” in Washington, D.C., with 160 MOAA members, visiting our elected representatives to discuss important legislation that would affect the military and their families, including the Survivor Benefit Plan/Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset. We asked that the offset be fully repealed, but if sufficient funds could not be found, that the Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA) be extended and increased to continue phasing out the offset completely.

Even though our work on a full repeal of the offset continues, in the FY 2017 Defense Authorization Act, the SSIA has been extended through May 2018 at the current \$310 monthly rate. This will give us a chance to push Congress this year to increase and further extend the allowance or eliminate the offset in its entirety.

Our efforts to increase the number of surviving spouse liaisons at the council and chapter level continue as well. The number of surviving spouse liaisons has increased by 145. However, that number only represents a little more than half of the total chapters. We will continue to promote the importance and benefits of a surviving spouse liaison. Our goal remains 100-percent participation.

In October during MOAA’s 2016 annual meeting, we honored two highly qualified and deserving surviving spouses with the Surviving Spouse Excellence Award: Paula Muth of the Heartland (Neb.) Chapter and Barbara Smith of the Hampton Roads (Va.) Chapter.

We also had two very productive committee meetings in 2016, during which we made decisions to:

Increase the member term limit from three years to four years, with an option to extend for up to two more years if a member is willing



and able. This should provide more continuity and improve productivity;

Change the start date for new SSAC members from April to October to coincide with the orientation/installation of new members of MOAA's board of directors. New SSAC members can participate in the board of directors orientation and be better informed about MOAA;

Increase the committee from six members to eight members on a trial basis. Two new members will be "virtual members," with no expectation of attending SSAC meetings in person. This might help bring in younger surviving spouses who are unable to travel for extended periods because of jobs, children, or aging parents; and

Find new ways to recruit and engage surviving spouses by:

- using *Military Officer* magazine and social media to reach a younger demographic and
- reaching out to and involving other organizations, such as the Retired Officers Wives Association, the Society of Military Widows, the Survivor Outreach Services, etcetera.

Because of the decisions made in 2016, we will be a stronger committee in 2017 and the years to come.

### GENERAL MATTIS: A CHRISTMAS STORY

Did you ever wonder about what constitutes real 'leadership'? Read this Story as told by Dr. Albert C. Pierce, the Director of the Center for the Study of Professional Military Ethics at The United States Naval Academy. He was introducing General James Mattis who gave a lecture on Ethical Challenges in Contemporary Conflict in the spring of 2006. It was taken from the transcript of that lecture.

A couple of months ago, when I told General Krulak, the former Commandant of the Marine Corps, now the chair of the Naval Academy Board of Visitors, that we were having General Mattis speak this evening, he said, "Let me tell you a Jim Mattis story."

General Krulak said, when he was Commandant of the Marine Corps, every year, starting about a week before Christmas, he and his wife would bake hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of Christmas cookies. They would package them in small bundles.

Then on Christmas day, he would load his vehicle. At about 4 a.m., General Krulak would drive himself to every Marine guard post in the Washington-Annapolis-Baltimore area and deliver a small package of Christmas cookies to whatever Marines were pulling guard duty that day. He said that one year, he had gone down to Quantico as one of his stops to deliver Christmas cookies to the Marines on guard duty. He went to the command center and gave a package to the lance corporal who was on duty.

He asked, "Who's the officer of the day?" The lance corporal said, "Sir, it's Brigadier General Mattis."

And General Krulak said, "No, no, no. I know who General Mattis is. I mean, who's the officer of the day today, Christmas day?"

The lance corporal, feeling a little anxious, said, "Sir, it is Brigadier General Mattis."

General Krulak said that about that time, he spotted in the back room a cot, or a daybed. He said, "No, Lance Corporal. Who slept in that bed last night?"

The lance corporal said, "Sir, it was Brigadier General Mattis."

About that time, General Krulak said that General Mattis came in, in a duty uniform with a sword, and General Krulak said, "Jim, what are you doing here on Christmas day? Why do you have duty?" General Mattis told him that the young officer who was scheduled to have duty on Christmas day had a family, and General Mattis decided it was better for the young officer to spend Christmas Day with his family, and so he chose to have duty on Christmas Day.

General Krulak said, "That's the kind of officer that Jim Mattis is."

**THAT'S A WRAP FOR FEBRUARY**



**PACMOAA MEMBERSHIP FORM 2017**

**FULL NAME:**\_\_\_\_\_ **NICKNAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**GRADE/RANK:**\_\_\_\_\_ **SERVICE:**\_\_\_\_\_ **BIRTH DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATUS:**    **Active**        **Retired**        **Former**        **Surviving Spouse**

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOME PHONE:**\_\_\_\_\_ **CELL PHONE:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Civilian Occupation:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MOAA Membership No.** \_\_\_\_\_

**MOAA Membership No.:** \_\_\_\_\_ **(From MOAA card or *Military Officer* Mailing Label)**

**Spouse's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Spouse's Nickname:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you willing to serve as board member or on a committee? ( ) Yes ( ) No**

**PLEASE CIRCLE CORRECT AMOUNT: ANNUAL DUES ENCLOSED IS \$25.00 FOR REGULAR MEMBER OR \$20.00 FOR AUXILIARY MEMBER. Make checks payable to PACMOAA and send mail to:**

**PACMOAA, PO Box 5353, Portsmouth, VA 23703**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: For members joining after 1 July, \$12.50 for regular members and \$10.00 for auxiliary members**

## Survey of interests for the Virginia Tattoo and guest speakers

1. We are contemplating going to the Virginia Tattoo at The Norfolk Scope instead of our normal April Dinner Meeting, or we could do both. The night would be Friday, April 28, instead of our normal Thursday dinner meeting. Cost is approximately \$49.00. There is wheelchair access and seating with little or no steps. Payment must be in advance to reserve seats, probably by the February 9 meeting.

Would you prefer (Please circle yes or no to ONE choice A, B, C below):

A. Go to the Tattoo instead of a dinner meeting? You would have to eat on your own early, or buy a snack from one of a few vendors instead. **Yes or no**

B. Go to the dinner meeting instead of the Virginia Tattoo? **Yes or no.**

C. Do both? **Yes or no**

2. Do you have any ideas for guest speakers?

If so, who and do you have a point of contact (POC) for that speaker?

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
POC \_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
POC \_\_\_\_\_

3. Would you be in favor of just a dinner, but no speaker sometimes? **Yes or no**

4. Would you be in favor of a Saturday Luncheon instead of our normal Thursday? **Yes or no**

5. Would you like to vary our meeting location? **Yes or no**

If yes, do you have any location suggestions?

6. As far as venues, please rate the following with a yes, no, or maybe (Y N M)

Golden Coral's meeting room **Y N M**

Smithfield Inn **Y N M**

Obici House (may require reversal of dinner first, then meeting to **meeting first, then dinner**). **Y N M**

## LIST OF VOLUNTEER POSITIONS OPEN IN THE CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

### **NOW**

- ☐ Americans with Disabilities Commission (1-Disabled Person)
- ☐ Downtown Design Committee (1 position)
- ☐ Economic Development Authority – (1 position)
- ☐ Historic Preservation Commission – (7 positions: 3 Port Norfolk residents; 1 Olde Towne resident; 2 Cradock residents; 1 Architect)
- ☐ History Commission – (3 positions)
- ☐ Library Board – (2 positions)
- ☐ Museum & Fine Arts Commission (4 positions)
- ☐ Planning Commission – (1 position)
- ☐ Supplemental Retirement Board (1 position – Investment/Financial Background)

### **2017**

#### **June**

Behavioral Healthcare Services Advisory Board (2 positions)  
History Commission (1 position)  
Housing Board of Adjustments & Appeals (2 positions)  
Parks & Recreation Commission (1 position)  
Senior Services of SE VA Board (1 position)  
Social Services Advisory Commission (1 position)

#### **July**

Newport Development Authority (1 position)

#### **August**

Portsmouth Redevelopment & Housing Authority (1 position)

#### **October**

Historic Preservation Commission (1 position)  
Museum & Fine Arts Commission (1 position)

#### **December**

Board of Zoning Appeals (1 position)  
Economic Development Authority (1 position)  
Portsmouth Port & Industrial Commission (1 position)  
South Hampton Roads Regional Disabilities Services Board (2 positions)